(d) if so, the decision, if any; taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association has suggested an increase in the rates of maintenance allowance for hostellers and dayscholars under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students to the extent of meeting the total cost of maintenance @ Rs. 1200/- per month.

(c) and (d) A proposal to increase the rates of maintenance allowance is under consideration in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Financial Assistance to States Implementing Prohibition

2279. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the states that are implementing prohibition;

(b) whether there if any assistance extended by the Central Government to those States;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there if any constitution obligation of the Centre in this regard and how it is executed

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) According to the information available, prohibition has been enforced in Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Nagaland & Lakshadweep (except in Bangaram Island). Partial prohibition has been enforced in Tamil Nadu. In Andhra Pradesh, a ban has been imposed on the sale of arrack in the entire State w.e.f. 1-10-1993.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As Prohibition is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to consider alternative sources of revenue for recauping the loss incurred on account of imposition of prohibition. In addition, on account of the severe constraints of resources for the developmental programmes being undertaken to improve the lot of the weeker sections and the vulnerable groups of the population, it is not possible on the parts of the Government of India to provide any compensation to the State Governments for introduction of prohibition.

(d) Article 47 of the Constitution provides that the State shall endervour to bring about prohibition in the Country. However, since production, manufacture possessing, transport, purchase and sale of the intexicating liquors faill within the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is for the State Governments to take appropriate steps in this direction. On its part, the Central Government serves to act as a catalyst in persuading the State Governments to take up measures for imposition of prohibition in the States. In this regard, detailed guidelines stipulating immediate and long-term steps to be taken for enforcement of prohibition have been issued to the State Governments in 1975 and 1978. Also, the Central Governments has launched a massive awareness generation programme to educate people about the ill-effects of alcoholism through various media.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. BUSINESS FOR THE DAY

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to make an announcement. I have to inform Members that lunch hour today will be from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. I had a meeting with the leaders of the various political parties and groups; and Private Members' legislative business will be taken up froth 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. The Prime Minister; in connection with the GATT agreement vis-a-vis your demands; will come to the House thereafter.

AN HON. MEMBER: Time?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At